

CLAIMS

1. A picture display controlling apparatus comprising:

    data holding means for holding a plurality of picture data items;

    resume pointer holding means for holding as a picture resume pointer the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from any of picture groups obtained by sorting said picture data items;

    operation inputting means for accepting an operation input for designating any of said picture groups or any of the picture data items in the designated picture group; and

    display controlling means for exercising control such as to display the designated picture group or the designated picture data item in said designated picture group;

    wherein, if said operation input accepted by said operation inputting means designates transition from a first picture group to a second picture group, then said display controlling means causes said resume pointer holding means to hold the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from said first picture group as the picture resume pointer for said first

picture group, while retrieving the picture resume pointer for said second picture group from said resume pointer holding means in order to display anew the picture data item pointed to by the retrieved picture resume pointer.

2. The picture display controlling apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said operation inputting means comprises picture data switching operation inputting means for accepting an operation input for switching said picture data items on an item by item basis; and

wherein, if said operation input accepted by said picture data switching operation inputting means designates transition beyond the picture data item at one end of a picture data item array constituting a given picture group, then said display controlling means displays anew the picture data item at the other end of the array forming the picture group in question.

3. The picture display controlling apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said operation inputting means comprises picture data switching operation inputting means for accepting an operation input for switching said picture data items on an item by item basis; and

wherein, if said operation input accepted by said picture data switching operation inputting means designates transition from the picture data item at one end of a picture data item array in said first picture group to said second picture group, then said display controlling means causes said resume pointer holding means to hold the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from said first picture group as the picture resume pointer for said first picture group, while displaying anew the picture data item at one end of a picture data item array constituting said second picture group.

4. The picture display controlling apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said picture groups are sorted by picture-taking information about said picture data items.

5. A picture display controlling apparatus comprising:

data holding means for holding a plurality of picture data items;

picture resume pointer holding means for holding as a picture resume pointer the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from any of picture groups obtained by sorting said picture data items;

picture group resume pointer holding means for holding as a picture group resume pointer the location of the picture group most recently displayed from any of picture group arrays derived from said picture groups;

operation inputting means for accepting an operation input for designating any of said picture group arrays, any of said picture groups in the designated picture group array, or any of the picture data items in the designated picture group; and

display controlling means for exercising control such as to display the designated picture group array, the designated picture group in said designated picture group array, or the designated picture data item in said designated picture group;

wherein, if said operation input accepted by said operation inputting means designates transition from a first picture group array to a second picture group array, then said display controlling means causes said picture group resume pointer holding means to hold the location of the picture group most recently displayed from said first picture group array as the picture group resume pointer for said first picture group array, while retrieving the picture group resume pointer for said second picture group array from said picture group resume

pointer holding means in order to display anew the picture group pointed to by the retrieved picture group resume pointer; and if said operation input accepted by said operation inputting means designates transition from a first picture group to a second picture group, then said display controlling means causes said picture resume pointer holding means to hold the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from said first picture group as the picture resume pointer for said first picture group, while retrieving the picture resume pointer for said second picture group from said picture resume pointer holding means in order to display anew the picture data item pointed to by the retrieved picture resume pointer.

6. The picture display controlling apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said operation inputting means comprises picture data switching operation inputting means for accepting an operation input for switching said picture data items on an item by item basis; and

wherein, if said operation input accepted by said picture data switching operation inputting means designates transition beyond the picture data item at one end of a picture data item array constituting a given

picture group, then said display controlling means displays anew the picture data item at the other end of the array forming the picture group in question.

7. The picture display controlling apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said operation inputting means comprises picture data switching operation inputting means for accepting an operation input for switching said picture data items on an item by item basis; and

wherein, if said operation input accepted by said picture data switching operation inputting means designates transition from the picture data item at one end of a picture data item array in said first picture group to said second picture group, then said display controlling means causes said resume pointer holding means to hold the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from said first picture group as the picture resume pointer for said first picture group, while displaying anew the picture data item at one end of a picture data item array constituting said second picture group.

8. The picture display controlling apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said operation inputting means comprises picture data switching operation

inputting means for accepting an operation input for switching said picture data items on an item by item basis; and

wherein, if said operation input accepted by said picture data switching operation inputting means designates transition from the picture data item at one end of a picture data item array in said first picture group to said second picture group, then said display controlling means causes said resume pointer holding means to hold the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from said first picture group as the picture resume pointer for said first picture group, while displaying anew said second picture group.

9. The picture display controlling apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said picture groups are sorted by picture-taking information about said picture data items; and

wherein said picture group arrays are formed on the basis of the picture-taking information about said picture data items included in said picture groups.

10. A picture displaying apparatus comprising:  
data holding means for holding a plurality of picture data items;  
resume pointer holding means for holding as a

picture resume pointer the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from any of picture groups obtained by sorting said picture data;

operation inputting means for accepting an operation input for designating any of said picture groups or any of the picture data items in the designated picture group;

displaying means for displaying said picture groups or said picture data items in said picture groups; and

display controlling means for causing said displaying means to display the designated picture group or the designated picture data item from said designated picture group in accordance with said operation input accepted by said operation inputting means;

wherein, if said operation input accepted by said operation inputting means designates transition from a first picture group to a second picture group, then said display controlling means causes said resume pointer holding means to hold the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from said first picture group as the picture resume pointer for said first picture group, while retrieving the picture resume pointer for said second picture group from said resume pointer holding means in order to display anew the

picture data item pointed to by the retrieved picture resume pointer.

11. A picture displaying apparatus comprising:  
data holding means for holding a plurality of picture data items;

picture resume pointer holding means for holding as a picture resume pointer the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from any of picture groups obtained by sorting said picture data items;

picture group resume pointer holding means for holding as a picture group resume pointer the location of the picture group most recently displayed from any of picture group arrays derived from said picture groups;

operation inputting means for accepting an operation input for designating any of said picture group arrays, any of said picture groups in the designated picture group array, or any of the picture data items in the designated picture group;

displaying means for displaying said picture group arrays, said picture groups in said picture group arrays, or said picture data items in said picture groups; and

display controlling means for causing said displaying means to display the designated picture group array, the designated picture group from said designated

picture group array, or the designated picture data item from said designated picture group in accordance with said operation input accepted by said operation inputting means;

wherein, if said operation input accepted by said operation inputting means designates transition from a first picture group array to a second picture group array, then said display controlling means causes said picture group resume pointer holding means to hold the location of the picture group most recently displayed from said first picture group array as the picture group resume pointer for said first picture group array, while retrieving the picture group resume pointer for said second picture group array from said picture group resume pointer holding means in order to display anew the picture group pointed to by the retrieved picture group resume pointer; and if said operation input accepted by said operation inputting means designates transition from a first picture group to a second picture group, then said display controlling means causes said picture resume pointer holding means to hold the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from said first picture group as the picture resume pointer for said first picture group, while retrieving the picture resume

pointer for said second picture group from said picture resume pointer holding means in order to display anew the picture data item pointed to by the retrieved picture resume pointer.

12. A picture display controlling method for use with a picture display controlling apparatus comprising data holding means for holding a plurality of picture data items and resume pointer holding means for holding as a picture resume pointer the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from any of picture groups obtained by sorting said picture data items, said picture display controlling method comprising the steps of:

accepting an operation input for designating any of said picture groups or any of the picture data items in the designated picture group; and

causing, if said operation input designates transition from a first picture group to a second picture group, said resume pointer holding means to hold the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from said first picture group as the picture resume pointer for said first picture group, while retrieving the picture resume pointer for said second picture group from said resume pointer holding means in order to

display anew the picture data item pointed to by the retrieved picture resume pointer.

13. A picture display controlling method for use with a picture display controlling apparatus comprising data holding means for holding a plurality of picture data items, picture resume pointer holding means for holding as a picture resume pointer the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from any of picture groups obtained by sorting said picture data items, and picture group resume pointer holding means for holding as a picture group resume pointer the location of the picture group most recently displayed from any of picture group arrays derived from said picture groups, said picture display controlling method comprising the steps of:

accepting an operation input for designating any of said picture group arrays, any of said picture groups in the designated picture group array, or any of the picture data items in the designated picture group;

causing, if said operation input designates transition from a first picture group array to a second picture group array, said picture group resume pointer holding means to hold the location of the picture group most recently displayed from said first picture group

array as the picture group resume pointer for said first picture group array, while retrieving the picture group resume pointer for said second picture group array from said picture group resume pointer holding means in order to display anew the picture group pointed to by the retrieved picture group resume pointer; and

causing, if said operation input designates transition from a first picture group to a second picture group, said picture resume pointer holding means to hold the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from said first picture group as the picture resume pointer for said first picture group, while retrieving the picture resume pointer for said second picture group from said picture resume pointer holding means in order to display anew the picture data item pointed to by the retrieved picture resume pointer.

14. A program for causing a computer to carry out a procedure in conjunction with a picture display controlling apparatus comprising data holding means for holding a plurality of picture data items and resume pointer holding means for holding as a picture resume pointer the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from any of picture groups obtained by sorting said picture data items, said procedure

comprising the steps of:

accepting an operation input for designating any of said picture groups or any of the picture data items in the designated picture group; and

causing, if said operation input designates transition from a first picture group to a second picture group, said resume pointer holding means to hold the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from said first picture group as the picture resume pointer for said first picture group, while retrieving the picture resume pointer for said second picture group from said resume pointer holding means in order to display anew the picture data item pointed to by the retrieved picture resume pointer.

15. A program for causing a computer to carry out a procedure in conjunction with a picture display controlling apparatus comprising data holding means for holding a plurality of picture data items, picture resume pointer holding means for holding as a picture resume pointer the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from any of picture groups obtained by sorting said picture data items, and picture group resume pointer holding means for holding as a picture group resume pointer the location of the picture group most

recently displayed from any of picture group arrays derived from said picture groups, said procedure comprising the steps of:

accepting an operation input for designating any of said picture group arrays, any of said picture groups in the designated picture group array, or any of the picture data items in the designated picture group;

causing, if said operation input designates transition from a first picture group array to a second picture group array, said picture group resume pointer holding means to hold the location of the picture group most recently displayed from said first picture group array as the picture group resume pointer for said first picture group array, while retrieving the picture group resume pointer for said second picture group array from said picture group resume pointer holding means in order to display anew the picture group pointed to by the retrieved picture group resume pointer; and

causing, if said operation input designates transition from a first picture group to a second picture group, said picture resume pointer holding means to hold the location of the picture data item most recently displayed from said first picture group as the picture resume pointer for said first picture group, while

retrieving the picture resume pointer for said second picture group from said picture resume pointer holding means in order to display anew the picture data item pointed to by the retrieved picture resume pointer.